

WHEN SHOULD A BOOSTER SEAT NOT BE USED?

If your vehicle does not have shoulder belts in the back seat, a booster seat cannot be used. Booster seats must never be used with a lap belt only. If there are no seating positions with both lap and shoulder belts available for using a booster seat, a child who has outgrown their regular child restraint may be secured with a properly fitted lap belt. Children should ride in a traditional child restraint until they outgrow the internal harness system, which generally occurs at 40 pounds or more, depending on the seat. There are many seats on the market with internal harnesses that can accommodate children weighing more than 40 pounds. These seats are recommended to parents with vehicles that only have lap belts.

WHEN IS MY CHILD READY FOR A SEAT BELT?

Your child graduates to a seat belt when they are at least 8 years of age or over 57 inches tall. Before moving your child to an adult safety belt, take the Safety Belt Fit Test.

- Is your child able to sit upright with knees bent at the edge of the seat?
- Does the shoulder belt fit over the middle of the shoulder and the center of the chest?
- Does the lap belt rest on the hips or upper thighs?
- Can your child maintain the correct seating position for as long as you are in the car?

SAFETY TIP

- Keep your child in their booster seat until they outgrow the weight and height limits, even if they 8 years old or older.
- Properly secure children age 12 and younger in the back seat, if possible.

WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

- Contact your local health department for more information and for help with car seat and booster installations.
- Call the Utah Highway Safety Office at 801-957-8570 or visit www.highwaysafety.utah.gov.
- Call Primary Children's Medical Center's Child Safety Hotline at 801-662-CARS (2277).
- Visit <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/cps/cpsfitting> to find the nearest Child Safety Seat Inspection Station that offers parent education on proper car seat use.

Utah Department of Public Safety Highway Safety Office

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BOOST 'TIL 8



A PARENT'S GUIDE To Buying and Using Booster Seats

More children ages 6 to 14 die from traffic crashes than from anything else. But even more startling is the fact that over half of the 4- to 7-year-olds who die in crashes are buckled in seat belts. The truth is that these younger children are not safe in seat belts alone. They are not adequately protected by seat belts alone.



State of Utah

Department Of Public Safety

WHAT IS UTAH'S LAW?

In Utah, children up to age 8 (through age 7) must be in an appropriate child safety seat or booster seat when traveling in a passenger vehicle. There is an exception to the law that states that children younger than eight are not required to be in a booster seat if they are at least 57 inches tall. At that point, they should use the vehicle's lap and shoulder belt without a booster. This is a primary enforcement law for occupants under the age of 19 with a fine of \$45. For more information and details about this law, go to www.highwaysafety.utah.gov or www.utahsafekids.org.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Seat belts are not designed for children. Beginning at around age 4, many children are too large for conventional child restraints but too small for adult seat belts. A booster seat raises your child up so that the seat belt fits right – and can better protect your child. The shoulder belt should cross the child's chest and rest snugly on the shoulder, and the lap belt should rest low and snug across the hips.

SAFETY TIP

- Booster seats should never be used with only lap belts.
- The shoulder belt should never be placed behind a child's back or under the arm.
- The lap belt should never be placed across a child's stomach. If this is done, your child could be seriously injured or killed in a crash.

WHAT ARE BOOSTER SEATS?

Booster seats are a type of child safety seat designed for children who are about age 4 to at least age 8 and who weigh approximately 40 to 100 pounds. They are designed to lift the child so that the shoulder and lap belts fit properly – over the strongest parts of the body. They also enable your child to sit more comfortably, with knees bent and without slouching.

WHICH TYPE OF BOOSTER SEAT IS RIGHT FOR MY CHILD?

Carefully study the different booster seats available to find the one best suited for your child and your vehicle. Also, be sure to read your vehicle owner's manual for information on installing child restraints and boosters in your vehicle. Always follow the age, weight, height, and other guidelines provided by the car seat manufacturer. The following are descriptions of the main types of booster seats, all of which "boost" your child up so the vehicle's seat belt fits better.

1. High-Back Booster

The high-back booster is a belt positioning seat used only with vehicle lap and shoulder belts and is designed for children between 30 to 100 pounds. The high-back booster helps prevent whiplash in children who ride in vehicles without back-seat head restraints (minivans, wagons, and some sport-utility vehicles).



2. Combination Seat

(High-Back Booster with Removable Harness)

This seat converts from a forward-facing toddler seat to a booster seat and comes equipped with a removable harness. With the harness in place, this type of seat can be used for children who are at least 1 year of age and at least 20 pounds up to about age 4 and 40 or more, depending on



the seat. When the child outgrows the toddler seat, the harness can be removed and the seat can be used as a booster seat for children up to 80 or 100 pounds.

3. Base Booster

The base booster is a belt-positioning seat used only with vehicle lap and shoulder belts. This booster seat has a safe platform but no high back, meaning that the vehicle seat must have a head restraint to provide support to help prevent whiplash. Some base boosters are built into vehicle seats.



SAFETY TIP

- Booster seats are inexpensive and easy to use.
- They are sold at toy stores, department stores, and other retail outlets.